Wednesday, the 29th August, 2001/7 Bhadrapada, 1923 (Saka)

The House met at Eleven of the clock,

MR. CHAIRMAN in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Take over of Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal

* 521. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to take over the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal as a full-fledged post-graduate medical institute;

(b) whether it is a fact that most of the funds of RIMS are grants from the North Eastern Council; and

(c) If so, the details of the funds and its management ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Regional Institute of Medical Sciences (RIMS), Imphal has a college and a hospital. The non-recurring capital expenditure in respect of the college as well as the hospital is fully funded by the North Eastern Council (NEC).

The recurring expenditure in respect of the college and the hospital is met in the following manner :

College :

NEC	—	50%
Constituent State Governments (Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh)	—	50% (in the ratio of seats allocated to each State).

Hospital :

NEC	—	50%
State Govt. of Manipur	—	25%
Remaining Constituent States (Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh)	—	25% (equal share)

The RIMS is governed by a Board of Governors headed by the Chief Minister of Manipur and an Executive Council headed by the Secretary, NEC.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Sir, the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, formerly named as Regional Medical College, Imphal, is a Medical Institute of six States of the North-East--Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh. It was established in the year 1972. Till now the Institute has produced 1,651 M.B.B.S. and 165 Post Graduates in the North-Eastern region. The Institute is now managed by a Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Secretary of the North-Eastern Council. The present funding system of the RIMS is by way of non-recurring grants to the College and Hospital. Fifty per cent of the expenditure is borne by the North-Eastern Council and 50 per cent by the beneficiary States. The Institute has, off and on, been facing a financial constraint because of non-payment of the *pro rata* constribution by the beneficiary States because most of the States of the North-East are themselves facing a financial crunch. At present the balance payable from each State to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences is : Arunachal Pradesh—Rs. 42.82 lakhs, Meghalaya—Rs. 58.21 lakhs, Mizoram—Rs. 63.11 lakhs, Nagaland—Rs. 7.26 lakhs, Tripura—Rs. 81.59 lakhs, and Manipur—Rs. 313.26 lakhs.

Since the Institute has a developed academic infrastructure and equipment and is now meeting the needs of quality health care delivery to the people of the North-East and also because 100 per cent non-recurring expenditure is being borne by the North-Eastern Council *i.e.* by the Government of India and also because 50 per cent of its expenditure is also being borne by the North-Eastern Council, it should be converted into a Government of India Institute. I say this because most of the financial help has been coming from the Government of India. If it is not converted into a Central Government Institute, the remaining grants which are to be borne by the beneficiary States would not be coming to it.

SHRI I. D. SWAMI : Sir, the North-Eastern Council is going to meet in the first week of September. A request in this regard from different States of the North-East has already been received, and this matter would be placed before the Council. So far as total funding by the Central Government or by the NEC is concerned, if that is done, the main difficulty would be that the *pro rata* admissions in the Medical College and the Institute will not be there. Then, only 15 per cent would be on the basis of an All-India competitive examination. That would be a loss to the North-Eastern States. Since the North-East has already got a developed academic and physical infrastructure and since it is a good Institute, that should continue as a Regional institute since only 50 per

cent of the finances will have to be borne by the respective participating States. However, this, matter would come before the NEC, and a decision would be taken by them.

SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH : Sir, my second supplementary is whether it is a fact that a high-powered committee has been constituted to review the manpower requirement of the entire North-Eastern Region for the development of health facilities, including the proposal for future development of the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal. If so, what recommendations have been made for the expansion of the RIMS ? I would also like to know from the Minister whether there is any plan to start additional courses in the near future. If so, which subject ?

SHRI I. D. SAWAMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the high-powered committee have submitted their recommendations. They have also appointed two sub-committees. Ultimately, they have made their recommendations. The recommendations of the high-powered committee are about some of the subjects to be included, increase in the medical seats, distribution of manpower, seats available in the RIMS under the Central pool, medical infrastructure as well as the para-medical courses to be started by the Institute. A number of recommendations have been made by the highpowered committee. If the hon. Member wants, I can send him all the details of the recommendations of the Committee to.

SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has made any assessment of the standard of medical education being imparted in the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences, Imphal *vis-a-vis* the standard of medical education imparted at the all India level. If so, what is the status of the Institute ? Number two, I would like to know from the Minister whether specialised teachers are available in all the Departments of the Institute as per the norms laid down. If not, when will the Government propose to fill up those vacancies ?

SHRI I. D. SWAMI : Sir, as far as the first part of the hon. Member's question is concerned, so far no study has been made. But all the same there are reports that about 2,00,000 people attend the OPD during one year; and a few hundred indoor patients are also kept in the Institute annually

So far as the specialists are concerned, on the basis of the high-powered committee recommendations, more specialists are going to be added in the second phase

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA : Mr. Chairman, Sir I am sorry to say that the Hon. Minister, Shri I. D. Swami was there in Manipur during the first week of July. But he could not find time to visit the hospital. Consequent to his visit I was there in Manipur. I have seen that the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences is a vast institute, the infrastructure is very strong, huge land is available, machines are there, people are also there. But, as you know, Sir the fiscal management of the State Government has not been such, that can be allowed, over a period of time. Now, this is being extremely difficult for the Manipur State Government alone or the Secretary, NEC to allocate proper funds for the smooth running or effective planning of the Institute. The Manipur State is being mostly funded by the Central Government. So, I would like to know whether the Central Government would takeover this Institute and look after its management and maintenance. I would also like to know whether the Minister is going to appoint some high power committee to allocate funds and to look into the management.

SHRI I. D. SWAMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already answered this question in response to a supplementary put by the hon. Member, *i.e.*, the questioner. The NEC is going to meet in the first week of September. This matter is going to be considered by the NEC whether 100 per cent funding should be done by the Government of India or not. I would also like to point out that there would be some disadvantage to the North-Eastern States if 100 per cent funding is done by the Government of India. In that case, 15 per cent of the total seats, 50 or 100 or whatever seats are there, will go to the students who pass the All India competitive examination. That would be a loss for the North-Eastern States.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN : Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Some of the questions I had, have already been answered. I would like to ask of the hon. Minister only this. One difficulty we feel in regard to this Institute is, the latest, improved, methods of treatment are yet to be made available there. These facilities should be there. In view of the difficulties faced by the Institute, if these facilities are to be made available there, you should take care of this Institute. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he can do all these things for the improvement of the hospital. The necessary money may be sanctioned through the NEC to the Institute.

SHRI I. D. SWAMI : Sir, it is a good suggestion. We will keep it in view Of course, the NEC has to take a decision about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 522.